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# Alumni Columns

VOL. VIII—NO. 8 NORTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE APRIL, 1949

## INVESTITURE OF NEW MEMBERS AT PURPLE JACKET REUNION

**Pictured at the time of the investiture of new Purple Jackets on the campus are, seated, left to right: Jaconette Davis, Joy Norris, Sara Pat Andry, Myrtle Ann Babin, Bobbie Cooley, Coach H. Lee Prather, President Emeritus V. L. Roy, founder of the Purple Jacket Club, Ann Montgomery, Mary Maricelli, Alida Bishop, Marilyn Finley and Rhetta Strickland. Standing: Marie Cloutier, Margaret Ackel, Margie Moore, Charlene Shaw, Patricia Felsher, Frances Sanders, Anna Pixley, Fairy Scherz, Margie Beth Barnett, Mamie Melton, Nadine Smith, June Wallace, Johnnie Mae Campbell and Emily Willis.**

## Purple Jacket Reunion

Over forty alumni members of he Purple Jacket Club returned o the campus on Saturday, April 2, for the second reunion of the rganization since it was founded n 1927. Special guest of the Purple Jackets for the event was President Emeritus Victor Leaner Roy of Baton Rouge, founder f the Club.

**V. L. Roy Trophy Established**

The V. L. Roy Trophy, honoring the outstanding senior Purple acket each year, was established his year by Dr. Reuben Sanford Roy, son of President Emeritus V. . Roy. The trophy was awarded Miss Mamie Melton by Coach H. Lee Prather at a special ssembly honoring the Purple ackets.

Other awards presented during he ceremonies were the Delta appa Gamma award to Miss Dorothy Jean Hurley, alumni member, for having been the outanding student teacher in education for 1947-48, and the Purple Jacket award to Miss Jan-an LeBlanc of Houma for being the outstanding sophomore woman student for 1948-49.

Following the presentation of awards, Mr. Roy addressed the assembly and delighted the group with his own inimitable manner of drawing comparisons between styles and customs as they prevail today and those that were prevalent during his administration from 1911 to 1929.

President Joseph E. Gibson presented the new members of the Purple Jacket Club. Those called were Kathryn Andrews, Many; Sara Pat Andry, Alexandria; Myrtle Ann Babin, LaPlace; Alida Bishop, St. Amant; Bobbie Cooley, Mora; Jaconette Davis, Shreveport; Nelda Davis, Ringgold; Marilyn Finley, Shreveport; Mary Maricelli, Campti; Ann Montgomery, Bellwood; Joy Norris, Hall Summit; and Rhetta Strickland, Natchitoches.

The luncheon program in the Student Center featured three of the club's founder-members: Mrs. Doris Henry Pierson, Mrs. Ann Cook Campbell, and Mrs. Eva Firestone Grooves. Special tribute was paid to Miss Catherine Z. Winters, faculty sponsor of the Purple Jackets since the founding of the Club in 1927.

## Homecoming Day, Saturday, May 21

### Fifty, Twenty-Five, Ten-Year Classes To Be Honored

The Board of Directors have set Saturday, May 21, as the date for the annual spring homecoming. The classes of 1898-99, 1923-24, and 1938-39 have been named as the honoree classes for the homecoming event, with the fifty-year, twenty-five year, and ten-year classes being honored on each successive homecoming day.

**Alumni Luncheon at 12:15**

By direction of the alumni at the business session last year, a luncheon program is being planned for the graduates and former students in the Student Center at 12:15 P. M. Arrangements have been made with the Student Center Cafe, where luncheon will be served to all alumni at a cost of $1.50 per plate. In order that proper arrangements may be made, it is necessary that reservations for the luncheon be made not later than Tuesday, May 10. Returning alumni who have not made their reservations for the luncheon can not expect to be served. Fill in the blank form in this issue, or write, enclosing your check or money order for the number of reservations you desire, and mail it in immediately.

The year 1949 marks the 55th anniversary of the organization of the Alumni Association and the 65th anniversary of the founding of the College. We are expecting a great crowd of alumni to be present on homecoming day to help celebrate these two anniversaries.

A detailed program of the events of the day will be published in the next issue.

## LONDON THEATRES MAY USE N. S. C. PLANS

## Ruth Draper Raves About N. S. C. Auditorium

Ruth Draper, noted dramatic artist, evidently fell in love with the stage and auditorium of Northwestern State College while here giving a performance, according to a letter received just recently by Mr. Frederic Plette of the Dramatics Division from Rosamond Gilder, Director of the United States Centre of the International Theatre Institute and The American National Theatre and Academy in New York.

The letter is as follows:

Dear Mr. Plette:

Our office has received a request from the British Centre of the International Theatre Institute for any information, pictures and/or plans we might have of the theatre recently built by the Northwestern State College at Natchitoches. It seems Miss Ruth Draper raved about your theatre while in London, and the Secretary of the Joint Council of National Theatre and Old Vic is most anxious to receive all the material available on your theatre.

As you probably know, the British Parliament has recently granted one million pounds for the building of a national theatre in London, and naturally they are very interested in recent American theatre buildings.

If you have any material that you could send us to be forwarded to the British Centre of the International Theatre Institute we would be most grateful.

The international office of the International Theatre Institute in Paris has established a Documentation Centre on Architecture where material on new theatre buildings all over the world will be collected. This will be of great value, especially in Europe, where so many theatres were destroyed and will have to be built anew. Whatever material you will send us will, after a study by the Joint Council of the National Theatre and Old Vic, be sent to Paris to the Documentation Centre on Architecture.

Sincerely,
Rosamond Gilder
Director

## Nurses' Training Program Approved By State Board

The State Board of Education has approved a program in nursing education for Northwestern State College, effective September, 1949.

Four hospitals in Shreveport which have been operating hospital schools of nursing have discontinued their schools in favor of collaborating with Northwestern State.

During the first two semesters and the following summer session the students will be on the College Campus studying basic sciences and other foundation courses. During the second and third years the students will be in Shreveport receiving clinical training and experience in affiliated hospitals and other health agencies under the direction and control of the nursing school faculty of the College.

Upon completion of the three-year program, the College will issue a certificate, and the student will be eligible to take the Louisiana State examination for registration as a registered nurse.

One hundred and fifty scholarships, valued at $500 each, will be made available to nursing students to cover cost of room, board, laundry, books, and registration at the College for the two semesters and the summer session the students are on the campus.

Graduates of the three-year diploma program may take additional courses leading to a bachelor's degree in nursing, and graduates of hospital schools of nursing, who are now registered nurses, may also complete the requirements for a degree at the College.

The hospitals have underwritten 115 scholarships, and it is expected that at least this number of nursing students will enroll in the nursing program.

Shreveport hospitals collaborating with Northwestern State College in the new nursing program are the Shreveport Charity Hospital, Highland Sanitarium, Inc., North Louisiana Sanitarium, and Tri-State Hospital.

## College Receives Gifts From "Merci" Friendship Train

A magnificent three-volume set of PARIS DANS SA SPLENDEUR was presented to the College from the French "Merci" Friendship Train by J. Edgerton Pierson, representing Governor Earl K. Long. The gift was received by President Gibson, Miss Eve Mouton, Professor of French; Mlle. Michele Honegger, French student from Lyon, France, and Miss Marie Clontier, descendant of the early French families of Natchitoches, representing the College.

These three volumes consist of monuments, views, historical scenes, description and history of Paris and its environs. Published by Henri Charpentier in 1861, the lithographic work and printing are a work of art.

Other gifts received were numerous brochures and publications. One rather interesting gift was a painting, a symphony in blue, painted by a young man who asked that the recipient of the painting write to him. Miss Mouton has presented the painting to a student in one of her French classes, and the recipient has complied with the request of the artist.

## Births

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wheat of Winnfield have announced the birth of a daughter, Jo Anna, March 10. Mrs. Wheat is the former Jewel James, B.S. '46.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas G. Donaldson of Dry Prong have announced the arrival of a son, Doulas Graham, Jr., on January 26. Mrs. Donaldson is the former Dorothy Ruth Bell, A.B. '43.

## MARY PATRICIA IRVIN

**Mary Patricia Irvin, born September 1, 1946, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar L. Irvin, 2045 Twenty-Third Street, Beaumont, Texas. Mrs. Irvin is the former Ida Patterson, A.B. '33, of Zwolle.**

ALUMNI COLUMNS

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## You and Your Alumni Magazine

Of the 5,000,000 college-trained men and women in the United States, approximately 1,725,000 are confessed readers of a college alumni magazine. If we modestly assume there are two readers for each copy mailed out, that means there are about 3,500,000 readers of alumni magazines throughout the country.

The average circulation of the alumni magazine is 7,735 and in most cases the editing is done by the alumni secretary who, incidentally, has a number of other duties to perform. Only in the larger schools with large circulation is there a special editorial staff whose sole duty is the publication of the alumni magazine.

The above statistics come from a study made last year by William Bentinck Smith, editor of Harvard Alumni Bulletin.

The alumni association and the alumni magazine are a typical American institution and are nonexistent in the older nations of Europe or Asia.

The reasons for the existence of an alumni magazine, quoting W. B. Smith, may be briefly summarized as follows:

"First, it is an instrument for interpreting a living and growing educational institution to an alumni body which is also growing and changing in a variety of ways. Second, it is a medium of news for alumni about alumni. Third, it is a sounding board for opinion on all subjects, but especially for opinion on matters vitally affecting the good name and progress of the university or college which it serves."

Unlike the industrial magazine or institutional house organ, the alumni publication is limited neither to occupation nor to locality. Its readers are a slice of the United States from east to west and from north to south. Above average in education—and presumably also in intelligence—they are bound together in common affection for a spot where they spent some of their most stimulating years; they went news of their friends and their alma mater; in the subconscious, at least, they also share the common desire to advance the principles and purposes of their college and university. They feel they "belong," and in the measure of their allegiance to college or university they further American education.

**BOBBY TRUDEAU**

**Bobby Trudeau is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice R. Trudeau of Somerset Center, Massachusetts, and Oxford, Louisiana. Mrs. Trudeau is the former Leiora Jane Flores, B.S. '44, and Mr. Trudeau was in the 1943 Naval Cadet Class on the campus.**

## Richland, Ouachita, Washington Parishes Organize Clubs

In accord with the program for the organization and reactivation of alumni clubs, three additional clubs were set up during the latter part of March.

On Thursday night, March 24, the alumni of Richland Parish met in Rayville for the organization of a parish unit. Because of the extremely rainy and stormy weather that evening, there were only a small number present: however, they were very enthusiastic about the unit and selected Miss Bobbie Myers and Miss Patsy Clyde to act as co-chairmen to plan for another meeting in the near future.

Hezzie R. Sylvest, Principal, Franklinton High School, was elected President of the Washington Parish Alumni of Northwestern State College at the meeting in the Franklinton High School on Tuesday night, March 29. Oliver E. Ballard was elected vice-president, Mrs. Viola Miley Wehmeyer of Bogalusa was elected secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Gwendolyn S. Burris of Franklinton and Miss Beulah Tisdale of Bogalusa were elected reporters.

Plans were made to check the list of alumni in Washington Parish and get correct addresses and other information preparatory to a big rally and social meeting at an early date. There are perhaps more alumni of the College in Washington Parish than any other rural parish in the State, at least among those at such a distance from Natchitoches.

The Ouachita Parish alumni met in Monroe on Thursday night, March 31, for the purpose of reactivating the local chapter. A. J. Maricella, Member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association, presided until the officers were elected.

Officers elected were Richard G. Cryar, President; Mrs. Christine Bass Coleman, Vice-President; Miss Wilma Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; and A. G. Gerson, Reporter.

The group were entertained by Bill Barnidge, Warren Hauth, and Al Kopp, members of the gymnastic team from the College, who accompanied the alumni secretary to the meeting.

The Ouachita Alumni Club has been one of the largest and most active clubs in the State for many years. Their present plans are to claim that distinction again, and work has already begun on getting in touch with every alumnus in the parish for a meeting in the near future.

## ALUMNI Here 'n There

Dr. Henry L. Cain, ex '22, President of Mexico City College and Superintendent of The American School Foundation, has achieved the distinction of becoming one of Mexico's outstanding educators and ambassador of good will extraordinary between Mexico and the United States.

Son of a Baptist Minister, the Rev. William Henry Cain, Dr. Cain was born near Leesville. He graduated from the Leesville High School, earned his two-year certificate at the old "Normal," received his B. A. Degree from Centenary and his M. A. Degree from Baylor, and was awarded the LL.D. Degree from Centenary.

After teaching in Blanchard Elementary School in Caddo and serving as principal of Evergreen High School in Webster, he went to Mexico City in 1926 as principal of the high school department of The American School Foundation. It was a temporary post. He has been there ever since.

In 1927 he became Superintendent of The American School Foundation, a position which he fills today. Under his direction the American School, organized in 1895, has grown from an enrollment of 650 in 1926 to 1500 in 1948. Approximately one-half the students are American children.

In 1940 Dr. Cain, in conjunction with Dr. Paul V. Murray, founded Mexico City College, specializing in the teaching of Spanish and in Latin American culture and affairs, in addition to standard undergraduate courses.

Several students from Mexico City have come to Northwestern State through the recommendation of Dr. Cain. Many of them returned to Mexico City after graduation to teach in the American School. Among those sent here by Dr. Cain are Maria Garza Larumbe, A.B. '44, Ruth Sanchez, A.B. '46, Esperanza Sanchez-Mejorada, Celinda Araujo, and Fanny Mary Dorantes, A.B. '48.

A letter just received from Mrs. Bryan Smith (Mary Fae Colvin, B.S. '39) of Dubach, who was an officer in the WAC during the war, states that she enjoys the ALUMNI COLUMNS very much and wants us to continue the good work. She further states: "After the war, I, as every one else, was so glad to get home and settle down that I neglected to send you the announcements of the births of my two sons, Morgan Bryan Smith, Jr., September 10, 1946, and William Don Smith, January 30, 1949."

**"TEXAS RED"**

**Hello Everybody:**

**I am "Texas Red" Sally Jane Cushing, seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hogan Cushing, 233 Jennings Avenue, San Antonio, Texas. Please put my picture in ALUMNI COLUMNS. I'll be seeing you in person in 1959. My mother's name was Ruby Mims, B.S. '31.**

**Your little friend,**
**Sally**

Mr. Frederick Basco, B. S. fall of '47, completed his work at the University of Arkansas and was awarded the Master's Degree in Education Administration on January 29. He has just been appointed principal of the Barton Consolidated School, Barton, Ark.

* * *

Mr. Wade H. Davis, A.B. '48, of Alexandria, who received his Bachelor's Degree from the College while working on his Master's Degree at Peabody, was elected "Man of the Year" by the Alexandria Junior Chamber of Commerce recently. Mr. Davis is assistant principal of the Brame Elementary School in Alexandria.

* * *

Lt. Millicent J. Murrell, B.S. '42, Physical Therapist in the Women's Medical Specialist Corps Reserve, of 1411 Bank Street, Lake Charles, has just recently been promoted to Captain.

Captain Murrell is stationed at Brooks General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She served overseas in Japan and has been stationed at Foster General Hospital, Jackson, Miss.

* * *

Lt. Jack Richter, USMC, ex '43, has just returned home from two years' duty in China. He has proceeded to his station in San Diego, Calif., after a visit to his home in Natchitoches.

* * *

A letter just received from the former Zina Stringfield, ex '30, informs us that she has been discharged from the WAC and has changed her name to Zina Stringfield Tate. She is now residing in Denham Springs. Mrs. Tate was formerly from Kentwood and has been receiving the ALUMNI COLUMNS there.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Beckcom, 3536 Herman Avenue, San Diego 4, Calif., were in the office just recently. Mrs. Beckcom is the former Eleanor E. Averre, ex '17, and Mr. Beckcom is a retired navy man. Incidentally, he was a member of the high school graduating class of your alumni secretary.

From Mr. and Mrs. Beckcom we learned the whereabouts of several of our former graduates. Among them are Mrs. William Jack Stone, the former E. Winifred Beckcom, ex '31, of San Diego; Mrs. B. A. Adams, 931 21st Street, San Diego, the former Cora Virginia Beckcom, ex '15; Mrs. T. Baker, 2222 Tilles Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, the former Naomi Beckom, ex '16; and Mrs. John B. Sanders, c-o Orange Products Co., Orange, Texas, the former Leslie Richardson, ex '17.

* * *

Mrs. A. C. Wagley (Marjorie Corley, A.B. '36) and Mrs. Edgar L. Irvin (Ida Patterson, A.B. '33) are now teaching at the Beaumont Foundation for Crippled and Spastic Children in Beaumont, Texas. They were both members of Psi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and are now members of the Eta Chapter of Beaumont.

**SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION FOR ALUMNI LUNCHEON TODAY DON'T DELAY**

## Faculty Notes

President Joseph E. Gibson and Dean C. E. Dugdale attended the Conference on Higher Education under the auspices of the National Education Association in Chicago on April 4-7.

Mr. Joe Gerber, Director of Student Personnel; Mr. Dudley Fulton, Assistant Director of Student Personnel; Miss Martha Gannaway, Dean of Women; and Miss Kinloch, House Director, attended a meeting of the American College Personnel Association in Chicago on April 17-21.

Mr. A. C. Maddox, Head of Mathematics Department, Mr. C. G. Killen, Mr. G. E. Miller, Mr. Glynn Corley, Mr. W. R. Hutcherson, Mr. S. W. Shelton, Miss Maude Sorenson, and Miss Virginia Carlton, all members of the Mathematics faculty, attended the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America at University of Mississippi, Oxford, on April 8-9. Mr. Hutcherson presented a paper at the conference.

Miss Lela Tomlinson, Acting Head of Home Economics Department, Mrs. Ruby Dunckelman, and Mrs. Marie Dunn, members of the Home Economics staff, attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Home Economics Association in Alexandria on Saturday, April 9.

Mr. R. L. Ropp, Mr. W. Frederic Plette, Mr. Robert B. Capel, Miss Irma Stockwell, and Miss Clio Allen attended the conference of the Southern Speech Association at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, early in April. Mr. Ropp, Director of Forensics, carried the debate team for the forensics tournament scheduled concurrently with the conference.

Mr. Eugene Watson, Mr. Warren Tracy, Miss Irene Pope, Miss Olive Roberts, and Mrs. Lucille Carnahan attended the annual convention of the Louisiana Library Association in Lake Charles on April 2-4. Mr. Watson is President of the Association and Mrs. Carnahan is Second Vice-President.

Mr. Guy Nesom and Mr. Paul Marx of the Health and Physical Education Department attended a meeting of the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in Boston, Mass. The conference extended from April 18 to April 22.

Dr. W. R. Hutcherson has tendered his resignation as a member of the Mathematics faculty. He has accepted a position as Professor of Mathematics at University of Florida, effective in September.

Mr. John S. Kyser, Head of Social Science Department, Mr. Charles G. Whitewell, and Mr. Alvin Good, members of the Social Science faculty, attended the annual meeting of Southwestern Social Science Association on April 15-16 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. Kyser presented a paper to the Geography Section; Mr. Whitwell presented a paper to the Government Section; and Mr. Good made a report on the activities of the Executive Committee of American Sociological Society as a representative of the Southwestern Sociological Society.

**"LITTLE MC."**

**William Joseph McFarland, pictured at age of 17 months, is the son of Ensign and Mrs. Ralph McFarland. They have been stationed at Corpus Christi, Texas, but are being transferred to Norfolk, Va., where they will be stationed for about six weeks while waiting for a new assignment. McFarland received his B.S. degree in 1946, and Mrs. McFarland is the former Dorothy Brock, B.S. '45.**

**After being released from service, Ensign McFarland did graduate work at University of Arkansas, taught for some time in Arkansas, then resumed active duty with the Naval Air Corps.**

Mr. Leroy S. Miller
N. S. C. Box 1025
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Enclosed is my check, money order, for.....reservations for the Alumni Luncheon Saturday, May 21, at $1.50 per plate.

Signed.....

Reservations for the following are included:

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RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MAY 12, 1949

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
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